

once you've been a
dopefiend for a year
you learn anybody can
become a snitch
but when we got the word
on Chester the Bear
we all felt bad

as far as good people
go in the Life he was
one of the best

it was his old lady, finally
who offered to give him
the hot shot
but she was evil, we
didn't go for it somehow

Al & I took him
out & got him lushed
the next night — he was
Sick & we said we weren't
holding so he drank a pint
in about 3½ minutes to kill
the Pain

Al went off
& came back 20 minutes
later — said he'd scored
& Chester shook half
a greedy spoon in his winecap
drew up & it was that
simple — anybody could've saved
him the first half hour so
we drug him back in
the alley & covered
him with an old
L.A. Countyfair banner

if I hadn't of been
so high I think
I'd've cried

— William Wantling 7/65

Wm. Wantling's Heroin Haikus (unpriced fm. Wantling, R.R. 1, Kickapoo, Edwards, Ill.) is unprenety but totally successful book with words and pictures that work together. Carl Robins' Not as a Faceless Number (intro. by Wantling) fm. Hors Commerce Press, 22526 Shadycroft Ave., Torrance, Calif. 90505 (\$1). Also fm. H.C.P.: Ralph Kinsey's The Last Straw and James D. Callahan's Prelude to Armageddon (illust. by Ben Tibbs), both at \$1 per.